(b) and (c) The agreement also provided that "Until such time as Rajasthan is in a position to utilize its full share, Punjab shall be free to utilize the waters surplus to Rajasthan's requirements" and also stated that "As a result, it is expected that during this transitional period when Rajasthan's requirements would not exceed 8.00 MAF, 4.82 MAF should be available to Punjab in a mean year when the availability is 17.17 MAF". Accordingly, an *ad hoc* interim arrangement of distribution considering the share of Rajasthan as 8 MAF was approved in December 1982 in a meeting of the Bhakra Beas Management Board, which decides the periodical distribution of the Ravi Beas waters, and the same has since been followed.

(d) An Inter-State meeting was convened on 25.07.2002. In view of Punjab's inability to restore remaining 0.6 MAF of Rajasthan's share of Ravi-Beas waters indicated therein, the Union Minister of Water Resources desired that the two States should meet and make further efforts to resolve the issue amicably.

Proposal for controlling loss due to floods

2231. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of people died and property lost on account of fury of rampaging flood in West Bengal, Assam and Bihar this year;

(b) whether almost same situation is faced by lakhs of people taking shelter in camps and surging floods entering their huts/homes every year, and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to control such floods by inter-connection of rivers at the earliest or by taking other measures?

THE MINISTER OF .STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The damages reported by the State Governments of Assam, and Bihar on account of floods during the current year are given as under:

Damages	Units	Assam	Bihar	West Bengal
Human lives lost	No.	251	701	Not reported
Total damages due to crops, houses and public utility	Rs. in crores	1915.67	1551.119	Not reported

(b) The States of Assam, Bihar and West Bengal generally experience floods of varying magnitudes every year.

(c) Flood Management being a State subject, investigations, planning and implementation of flood management schemes are within the purview of the respective State Governments. The Centre renders assistance that are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

The Ganga Flood Control Commission has prepared comprehensive plans for flood management for all 23 river systems of Ganga basin. Similarly, the Brahmaputra Board has also prepared master plans for the Brahmaputra & Barak basins and sub basins there under. These plans were sent to the concerned State Governments for follow up action.

Agreement has been reached with Nepal regarding Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project and Sun Kosi Storage-cum-Diversion Scheme. The Joint Project Office to take up the field investigations and preparation of Detailed Project Report has been opened in Nepal on 17th August, 2004. Discussions are also continuing with Nepal for Kamla & Bagmati Multipurpose Projects on rivers Kamla & Bagmati respectively.

The Central Government is also providing financial assistance to the State Governments for taking up critical flood management and anti-erosion works. Besides, Brahmaputra Board has taken up critical anti erosion schemes in Dholla Hathighuli and Majuli Island in Assam and Pagladiya Dam Project which *interalia* is estimated to provide protection against floods to an area of 40,000 ha.

As regards Inter-linking of rivers, the National Perspective Plan prepared by Ministry of Water Resources in 1980, envisages construction of storage dams. Generally the storage dams reduce the severity of floods and flood damages considerably by virtue of their capacity and also by way of transfer of flood waters through link canals to water short basins. The Government envisages a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of linking of rivers of the country in a fully consultative manner.

Winding up of Task Force on inter-linking of rivers

2232. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:-

(a) whether Government are seriously thinking of winding up the